

What is deafblindness?

Although the term *deafblind* implies a complete absence of hearing and sight, in reality, it refers to children with varying degrees of hearing and vision losses. The type and severity differ from child to child. For some children, there is a loss of hearing and visual acuity. However, challenges may also exist because a person has difficulty processing the information she or he hears and sees. The key feature of deafblindness is that the combination of losses limits access to auditory and visual information.



The contents of this document were developed under a grant from the US Department of Education, #H326C0800037. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the US Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government, Project Officer, Greg Knollman.

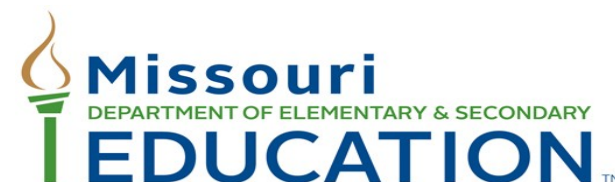


The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. Inquiries related to Department programs and to the location of services, activities, and facilities that are accessible by persons with disabilities may be directed to the Jefferson State Office Building, Civil Rights Compliance (Title VI/Title IX/504/ADA/Age Act), 6th Floor, 205 Jefferson Street, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480; telephone number 573-526-4757 or Relay Missouri 800-735-2966.



MISSOURI DEAFBLIND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT

OUTREACH SERVICES
MISSOURI SCHOOL
FOR THE BLIND



MISSOURI DEAFBLIND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT

The Missouri Deafblind Technical Assistance Project is a federally funded program that provides technical assistance and training to families and service providers of children and youth (birth through twenty-one years) who have a combined hearing and vision loss.

All services are free and available statewide.

Services are coordinated with local education agencies, other service providers and deafblind task forces to enhance networking and to build expertise in the community.



SERVICES OF THE PROJECT

- Assistance in the identification and tracking of children with deafblindness
- Child-focused technical assistance and consultation on assessment, education and employment
- Transition assistance including person-centered planning
- Inservice training on specific content areas
- Coursework for teams including families
- Access to information and referral to appropriate services and resources



IMPORTANCE OF ADDRESSING HEARING AND VISION CHALLENGES

Early identification and early intervention are important because:

- hearing and vision are critical to development and early learning,
- what is heard and seen help develop a child's understanding of the world,
- much learning is achieved through access to what is heard and seen,
- hearing and seeing motivate moving, and
- enjoyment comes from a variety of sources that individuals can hear and see



Missouri Deafblind Technical Assistance Project
Missouri School for the Blind
3815 Magnolia Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63110
314-776-4320, ext. 3255
susan.bonner@msb.dese.mo.gov
<http://msb.dese.mo.gov/deafblind.htm>